RUBIN

Museum of
Himalayan Art

Impact Report

2025

Mission

The Rubin Museum of Himalayan Art promotes awareness, cultivates learning and understanding, and fosters meaningful connections to the art of Tibetan, Himalayan, and related Inner Asian cultural regions.

We preserve, research, and share our collection, and create dynamic exhibitions and resources for communities and partners around the world.

Front cover: Detail of IMAGINE (a.k.a. Sneha Shrestha); *About a Living Culture*; powder coated steel and fabric; 2025; Diversity Plaza, Queens, New York City; courtesy of the artist, presented by the Rubin Museum of Himalayan Art and New York City Department of Transportation; fabricated in collaboration with Black Cat Labs; photo by Nicholas Knight
This page: Illustration by Sargam Gupta

Core values

Boldness

We recognize that change is constant and therefore welcome innovation, taking risks, rethinking norms, and being adaptable in pursuit of our mission.

Collaboration

We foster mutually rewarding relationships among staff, partners, and the people in our communities in which collaborators are supported and empowered in their activities.

Insightfulness

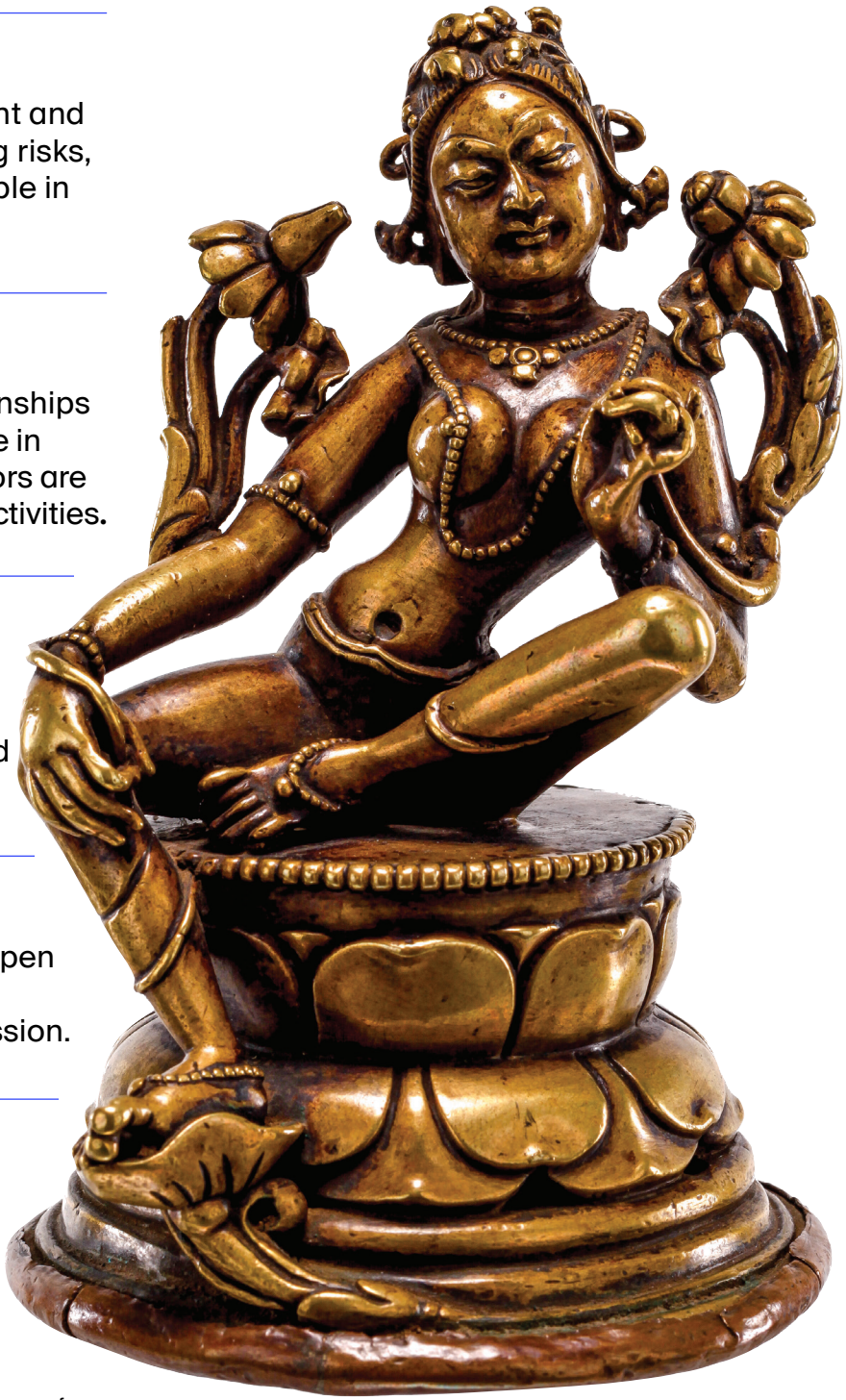
We offer opportunities for people to learn and gain new insights and perspectives about Himalayan art and cultures, themselves, and the world.

Compassion

We put empathy in action by being open and accessible to all and cultivating awareness and the skills for compassion.

Integrity

We demonstrate accountability and a commitment to the objects in our collection and the people who created them by acting in alignment with the Rubin's values and mission.



Green Tara; Tibet; ca. 18th century; gilt copper alloy with traces of pigment; Rubin Museum of Himalayan Art; C2005.16.46 (HAR 65469)

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Photo by Dave De Armas

Letter from the director

Dear Supporters and Friends,

2025 marks one year since the Rubin embarked on a new trajectory. After operating as a traditional museum for twenty years, we transformed into a global museum without a centralized physical space. This Impact Report captures key accomplishments from the first year in this bold new model.

In 2025 we brought **more art to more people in more places** through partnerships and collaborations with other institutions and museums. I am thrilled to share that we were able to connect new communities locally, nationally, and internationally to our mission, making more of an impact than ever before.

We reached new audiences in Utah and Minnesota with our traveling exhibition *Gateway to Himalayan Art*; brought the teachings of the Mandala Lab to workshop attendees in Slovenia and India; and introduced higher education faculty and curators from around the world to an expanded collection of educational resources from our **Project Himalayan Art** online platform.

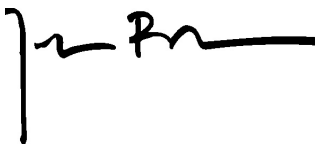
Central to our new model was the establishment of a **collection sharing program**, which makes Himalayan art more accessible through long-term loans of objects from our collection to other institutions. In June, over 100 objects from the collection traveled to the Brooklyn Museum, where they are now on loan for six years as part of the Rubin Museum Tibetan Buddhist Shrine Room installation.

In 2025 we were proud to provide direct, meaningful **support to living artists and researchers** in the field of Himalayan art by giving grants to 15 global projects, awarding the annual Rubin Museum Himalayan Art Prize to Khadhok – Tibetan Artists' Collective in Dharamsala, India, as well as by commissioning a new work by Nepalese artist IMAGINE (a.k.a. Sneha Shrestha) in Queens, New York. These programs are paramount to our mission to ensure the rich cultural heritage of the greater Himalayan region continues to inspire and resonate globally.

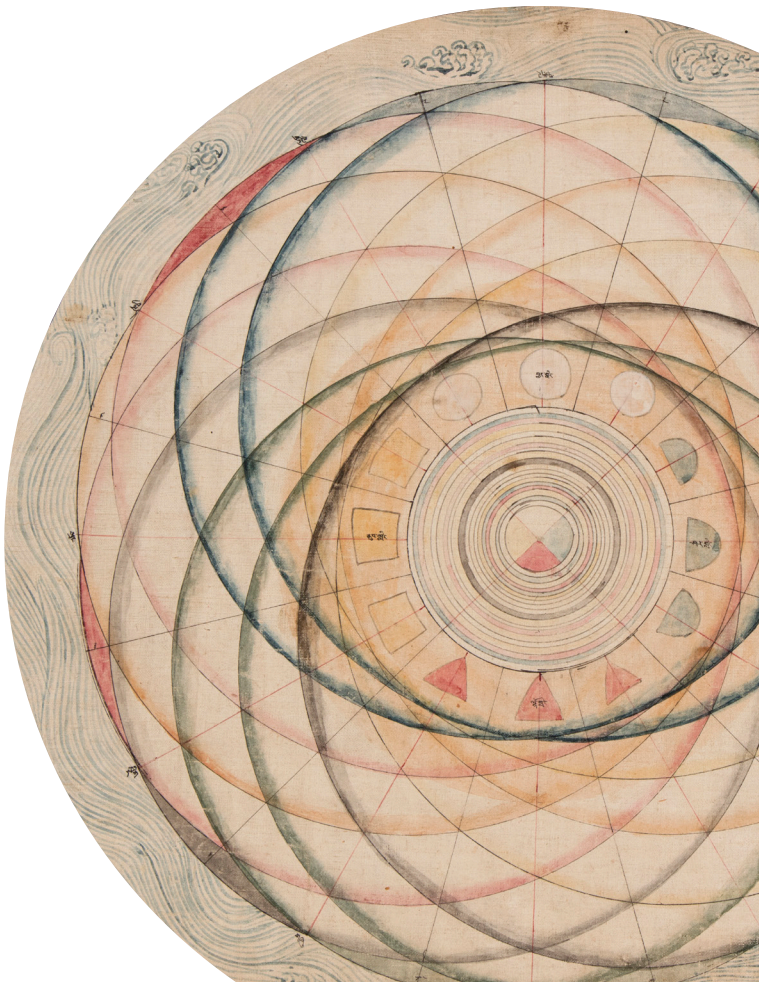
We also launched Mandala Lab in Your Classroom, a new **K–12 arts education program** that cultivates emotional awareness and compassion in the classroom through Himalayan art and its insights. In its first year, this program reached students across New York City, Upstate New York, and New Jersey.

Throughout the year, ***Spiral***—the Rubin's multimedia and print publication—invited people to delve deeper into Himalayan art and its insights through 140 new articles, podcast episodes, and videos from a diverse group of contributors. Many of the stories in *Spiral* explored the theme of interdependence, a fundamental concept in Buddhism and in life that describes the mutual dependence of everything and every experience.

This important work can only be achieved with generous public support from individual and institutional donors. As you read the pages of this report, we hope you are inspired to deepen your participation by giving generously. We are grateful for your support and belief in our mission, and excited about what we can continue to accomplish together.



Jorrit Britschgi
Executive Director



Celestial Wind Tracks, detail of Kalachakra Cosmology Illustration; Tibet; 16th century; pigments on cloth; Rubin Museum of Himalayan Art; C2009.9 (HAR 61200)

New model. Global reach.

As a global museum, we aim to bring more art to more people in more places.

Mandala Lab in Your Classroom: New York, NY

Gateway to Himalayan Art: Salt Lake City, UT
Northfield, MN

Public Art Commission: Queens, NY

Collection Sharing: Worcester, MA

Collection Sharing: Rubin Museum Tibetan Buddhist Shrine Room, Brooklyn, NY

Mandala Lab Workshop: Ljubljana, Slovenia

76K
newsletter subscribers

7.3M
views of social media content

311K
followers on social media

450K+
website visitors with **48%** international from **207** countries

Grant: Treasure Caretaker Training, Preservation of Buddhist Art, Kharkhorin, Mongolia

Rubin Art Prize: Dharamsala, India

Grant: VAST Bhutan, The Lungta Art Festival, Thimphu, Bhutan

Mandala Lab Workshop: Bangalore, India

About the collection

At the heart of our work is the stewardship of a collection of nearly 4,000 objects spanning more than 1,500 years to the present day. Included are artworks of exceptional quality and historical significance from the Tibetan Plateau, with examples from northern Indian, Nepalese, Bhutanese, Mongolian, and Chinese culturally related areas.

New additions to the collection help us present the rich and varied traditions of Himalayan art, support living artists from the region, and provide further learning and research opportunities for scholars. In 2025 we acquired a painting from Mongolian contemporary artist Uuriintuya Dagvasambuu.

Our collection research places Himalayan art at the center of global scholarship and societal conversations. In 2025 provenance researchers, linguists, and student groups alike visited our art storage facility to study and engage with objects from the Rubin's collection.

Detail of Uuriintuya Dagvasambuu; *Dedicated to Women Migrants: Security II*; 2023; acrylic on canvas; Rubin Museum of Himalayan Art; C2025.1.1

Our global initiatives

In our global model we serve the public in expansive ways, often in collaboration with partners in New York, across the United States, and around the world. Our global initiatives expand access to our collection, provide opportunities for more people to learn about and experience the art and cultures of the greater Himalayan region, help grow the field of Himalayan art, and cultivate well-being and understanding.

Collection sharing

Traveling exhibitions and object loans from the Rubin's collection to institutions around the world

Project Himalayan Art

An interdisciplinary resource for learning about Himalayan, Tibetan, and Inner Asian art and cultures, encompassing a traveling exhibition, digital platform, and publication

Opportunities for artists and scholars

An annual prize, monetary grant opportunities, contemporary art commissions, and a scholarly lecture series

K–12 and adult experiences

An array of in-person and online programs for youth, adults, and families that create opportunities to learn about Himalayan art and its insights

Spiral

A multimedia publication featuring articles, podcasts, video series, photography, animation, interviews with experts and scholars, art interactives, and more

Collection sharing

In 2025 the Rubin loaned artworks and ritual objects from the collection to other museums and institutions in the form of long-term loans or traveling exhibitions. These included Lehigh University Art Galleries in Pennsylvania, Worcester Art Museum and McMullen Museum of Art in Massachusetts, Brooklyn Museum in New York, Flaten Art Museum in Minnesota, and the Utah Museum of Fine Arts.

Photo by Filip Wolak

Rubin Museum Tibetan Buddhist Shrine Room

Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, NY

The Rubin Museum Tibetan Buddhist Shrine Room presents more than 100 artworks and ritual objects as they would be displayed in an elaborate Tibetan Buddhist household shrine—a space used for devotional prayer, offerings, and rituals. The design incorporates elements of Tibetan architecture and the color schemes of traditional Tibetan homes, offering visitors the opportunity to experience Tibetan religious art in its cultural context.

In the summer of 2025, the Shrine Room opened in the Brooklyn Museum's Arts of Asia galleries as part of a six-year collaboration. On view through April 2031, the installation provides New York City residents and visitors unparalleled access to this immersive experience.

Photo by Filip Wolak

Collection sharing

At a glance

"We need the energy and power of the Shrine Room evermore. So glad it will remain open."

—Anu Gupta, author

"This is an opportunity, in a really dramatic way, to beef up our presentation of a really dynamic and beautiful regional art form."

—Joan Cummins, Senior Curator of Asian Art, Brooklyn Museum

"A Gem of Himalayan Art Gleams in a New Setting"

—*New York Times*

255
collection objects on view across the United States

6
collection sharing institutions

55,000
visitors to the Rubin Museum Tibetan Buddhist Shrine Room

Rubin Museum
Tibetan Buddhist
Shrine Room
This installation re-creates a Buddhist shrine that one might find in an affluent Tibetan household. It includes historical religious images associated with the Geluk Tibetan Buddhist tradition, furnishings and tools of worship, and modern architectural elements and lighting designed to recall the atmosphere of a traditional Himalayan interior. The Shrine Room seeks to contextualize Buddhist works of art, both physically and ritually.
There are many types of shrines in the Buddhist world, from humble altars to ornate temples. In Tibet, it is typical for a single shrine to house multiple images of Buddhas, Bodhisattvas, and other enlightened beings. They appear as paintings on cloth (*thangkas*) and as gilded metal sculptures. Their positions within the shrine are hierarchical, with large images of the Buddhas and deities that are central to the teachings of a particular tradition, and smaller figures of those who help to explain and disseminate such teachings. Daily worship may involve playing ritual music, burning incense, making offerings of food and money, and reciting mantras while using prayer beads. During prayer, practitioners engage all their senses. These activities ensure the well-being of worshippers while encouraging consideration of core Buddhist notions of cause and effect and impermanence.
While the Shrine Room functions as a museum installation and has not been consecrated, it does replicate a sacred space. Please help us maintain a respectful and contemplative atmosphere.
An interactive guide to the Shrine Room and its contents is available on the touch screen to the right, outside the installation.
The Rubin Museum Tibetan Buddhist Shrine Room was originally on view at the Rubin Museum in New York from 2013 to 2024. The Rubin Museum has since transformed into a global museum dedicated to presenting Himalayan art and its insights through traveling exhibitions, participatory experiences, a dynamic digital platform, and partnerships such as this one with the Brooklyn Museum.
The Rubin Museum Tibetan Buddhist Shrine Room was curated by Elena Pakhoutova, Senior Curator of Himalayan Art at the Rubin Museum. Most of the objects are from the Rubin Museum's collection. Generous support from the Rubin Museum has made possible this installation at the Brooklyn Museum.
RUBIN
Museum of Himalayan Art
As of March 2025, the Rubin Museum Tibetan Buddhist Shrine Room is supported by Anne and Albert Chao and by generous donations from the Rubin's Board of Trustees, individual donors, and Friends of the Rubin.
The Rubin Museum Tibetan Buddhist Shrine Room is supported, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council.
NYC Cultural Affairs

Photo by Filip Wolak

Project Himalayan Art

This important three-part initiative, encompassing a traveling exhibition, digital platform, and publication, continued to support the learning and inclusion of Himalayan, Tibetan, and Inner Asian art and cultures into undergraduate teaching on Asia. In 2025 we brought *Gateway to Himalayan Art* to new cities and expanded the digital platform with new educational resources.

RELATIONSHIP OF BUDDHIST AND HINDU DEITIES
Buddhist and Hindu traditions spread side by side in the same communities in India and Nepal, and some of the deities in the two religions are associated with similar myths. The same groups of artists often created both Hindu and Buddhist images, and artistic depictions of these deities share a visual language that originated in India, including hand gestures, body postures, and implements. Some local communities across the Himalayas, both Hindu and Buddhist, celebrate several deities and their images in daily rituals and at annual festivals. It is common for a deity to go by different names based on where it is worshipped and by whom.

Photo by Elena Pakhoutova

Gateway to Himalayan Art

Utah Museum of Fine Art, Salt Lake City, UT

Flaten Museum of Art, Northfield, MN

In 2025 this traveling exhibition, provided free to university museums, made its fifth and sixth stops at the Utah Museum of Fine Arts in Salt Lake City, Utah, and St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota, welcoming students, professors, and local communities to learn more about Himalayan art. At both museums, professors integrated Project Himalayan Art into their curricula and brought students to visit the exhibition to see the art up close. Both venues also engaged local Tibetan communities, welcoming them to opening events and hosting programs in partnership with them.

Photo by Karl Debreczeny

Institute for Higher Education

In the summer of 2025, the Rubin hosted Virtual Gateway to Himalayan Art and Cultures, an inaugural Institute for Higher Education program that built on the resources of the Project Himalayan Art digital platform. The intensive provided a group of higher education faculty, including PhD candidates and museum curators from Canada, the United Kingdom, Greece, and the United States, with access to scholarship and tools needed to engage students in the vibrant ritual, cultural, and art-making practices and traditions of Tibetan and Himalayan regions.

Participants also developed their own teaching syllabi incorporating Project Himalayan Art, which will be included in a collection of teaching resources on the platform.

Detail of Chakrasamvara with Consort Vajravarahi; Kham region, eastern Tibet; 19th century; pigments on cloth; Rubin Museum of Himalayan Art; gift of the Shelley & Donald Rubin Foundation; F1997.7.2

Project Himalayan Art

At a glance

"By showcasing underrepresented Tibetan and Himalayan art traditions, we're not only filling a crucial gap in Asian art curricula but also celebrating Minnesota's vibrant Tibetan community. This exhibition creates meaningful connections between our students, alumni, and local community members while offering rich opportunities to explore diverse faith traditions and cultural values."

—Jane Becker Nelson,
Director of the Flaten Art Museum

"I truly appreciate exploring different ways to incorporate Himalayan art in my teaching activities with specialists and colleagues across disciplines. This gave me a lot of materials to think about and to bring into my teaching in the fall."

—Institute Participant

"This is a multimedia model to emulate."

—Les Roka, *Utah Review*

2
new cities experienced *Gateway to Himalayan Art*

7
new educational additions to the digital platform

27
faculty attended our online institute

74K
online visitors to Project Himalayan Art digital platform from **172** countries

Photo by Michelle Bennett Simorella

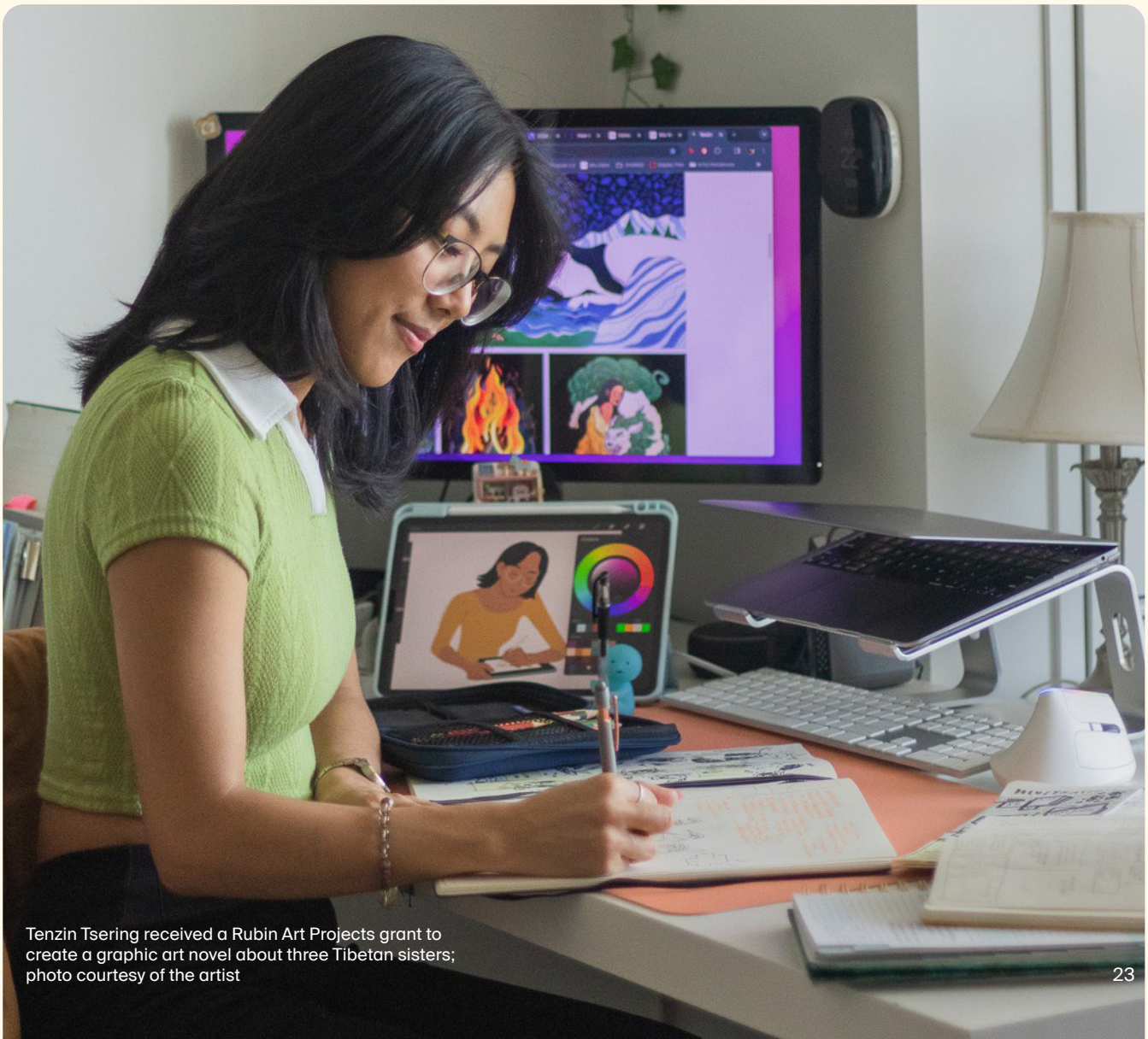
Opportunities for artists and scholars

In 2025 the Rubin continued to celebrate and support the exciting work of artists and scholars whose work is inspired by the living artistic and cultural practices of the greater Himalayan region and the diaspora. We did this through an annual Rubin Art Prize, monetary grant opportunities, a contemporary art commission, and a scholarly lecture.

An artist from Khyenle art center works on a sculpture; photo courtesy of the artist

Grants

As part of the Rubin's second award cycle, we awarded fifteen art project and research grants. Selected projects in 2025 will advance and generate further knowledge in the field of Himalayan art through a new conservation training program in Mongolia; documentation of historic art in central Bhutan and Nepal; research that focuses on the provenance of objects from a Tibetan Buddhist temple in Darjeeling, India; Tibetan visual art teaching resources and materials for educators; a video installation in northern India that explores the Tibetan Buddhist concept of interdependence; and new exhibitions, multimedia projects, and more.



Tenzin Tsering received a Rubin Art Projects grant to create a graphic art novel about three Tibetan sisters; photo courtesy of the artist

Rubin Museum Himalayan Art Prize

The annual unrestricted $30,000 cash prize is the largest international award in support of contemporary art related to the greater Himalayan region. The Rubin selected India-based Khadhok – Tibetan Artists' Collective as the winner of the 2025 Rubin Art Prize. The collective provides a dedicated space for Tibetan contemporary visual artists to present their work, exchange ideas, and strengthen their practice, with a focus on emerging artists. Since its founding, Khadhok has grown into a vibrant platform for artistic exchange, community engagement, and youth empowerment. The collective's activities include exhibitions, mural projects, workshops, talks, and youth engagement initiatives in schools and community spaces, supporting both professional growth and reflection on identity, culture, and belonging.

Khadhok founding members; photo by Tenzin Dorjee

Art commission: *About a Living Culture* by IMAGINE (a.k.a. Sneha Shrestha)

Diversity Plaza, Jackson Heights, NY

In partnership with the New York City Department of Transportation Art Program, NYC DOT Art, the Rubin unveiled a new temporary public art installation by Nepalese artist IMAGINE (a.k.a. Sneha Shrestha) in Diversity Plaza in Jackson Heights, Queens. Diversity Plaza attracts millions of locals and tourists annually and serves as a central gathering space for the growing Tibetan and Nepalese communities.

For her first public art sculpture, IMAGINE created a six-foot-tall installation in the shape of a golden arch made of repeating rows of "Ka," the first letter of the Nepali alphabet. *About a Living Culture* is a celebration of the artist's Nepalese heritage and inspired by the diverse Himalayan cultures of the neighborhood.

IMAGINE with *About a Living Culture*; photo by Dustin Lin

Rubin Museum Distinguished Lecture in Himalayan Art

Metropolitan Museum of Art
New York, NY

This annual lecture series recognizes experts offering insights into the art, cultures, and history of the greater Himalayan region, fostering deeper connections with these rich traditions. In 2025 the lecture welcomed scholar Kunsang Namgyal-Lama, Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales and Centre d'Études Sud-Asiatiques et Himalayennes, Paris, to speak about the murals of Gyantse Dzong's Temple in central Tibet. The event was livestreamed, and a recording of the lecture is available online for public access.

Photo by Filip Wolak

Opportunities for artists and scholars

At a glance

"As a young collective, being recognized by an institution with such a long history in Himalayan art makes us feel truly seen and valued. This recognition strengthens our confidence and encourages us to keep growing. Most importantly, it changes what is possible for Khadhok, allowing us to build a strong foundation that truly lasts and supports artists and our community for many years to come."

—Members of Khadhok,
2025 Rubin Art Prize Recipient

$230K
in total funding supporting artists and scholars

132
grant applications from **30** countries

15
total projects supported

1
public art commission

K–12 and adult experiences

Sustaining our presence in New York City, we continued to bring in-person programs to local communities of all ages. We also offered experiential workshops internationally in places like Slovenia and India. Much of our programming integrates concepts from the Rubin's Mandala Lab with Social, Emotional, and Ethical (SEE) Learning ® principles, helping people cultivate emotional awareness and compassion through Himalayan art and its insights.

Photo by Christine Butler

Mandala Lab in Your Classroom

New York and the Metro Region

Mandala Lab in Your Classroom launched in April 2025 as a free program available to third- to twelfth-grade classes in New York City, New Jersey, and Upstate New York. Lessons taught by Rubin teaching artists intertwine art-making activities, engagement with the Museum's collection, mindfulness techniques, and interdisciplinary and tactile learning to help students develop critical life skills. Most of the schools served in New York City were Title 1 public schools.

In 2025 we also offered three daylong Professional Development Workshops for Teachers running concurrently with the classroom program. The workshops taught participants how to incorporate the Mandala Lab in Your Classroom lessons into their curricula, reflect on ways to create a compassion-centered school environment, and discover how to interweave mindfulness practices into their classrooms. In addition to art-making activities, a mindful movement component was incorporated into the workshops through a partnership with GROOVE NYC.

Photo by Jessica Bal

Family celebrations

New York, NY

The Rubin presents family programs that explore the art and cultures of the greater Himalayan region and celebrate festivals such as Losar, the Tibetan New Year. In 2025 we partnered with the Children's Museum of Manhattan, LaGuardia Community College, CUE Art, and the Planting Fields Foundation to present five participatory educational programs that were accessible to an intergenerational audience.

Photos by Filip Wolak

Mandala Lab Workshops

Global Hearth Summit
Ljubljana, Slovenia

Bangalore Creative Circus
Bangalore, India

In 2025 Mandala Lab Curator Tim McHenry facilitated our first Mandala Lab Workshops in Ljubljana, Slovenia, and Bangalore, India. Similar to the experience in the former Mandala Lab installation and inspired by powerful Tibetan Buddhist teachings, the workshops invite people to get curious about their emotions to gain a better understanding of themselves and others. Through a series of five thought-provoking, playful experiences, participants consider how complex feelings of pride, attachment, envy, anger, and ignorance show up in their everyday lives and imagine how they might have the power to transform them.

Photo by Tim McHenry

Mindfulness Meditation

New York Insight Meditation Center
New York, NY

In 2025 we hosted and curated our longstanding meditation series at New York Insight Meditation Center in Manhattan and online. Inspired by works of art from the Rubin's collection and led by expert teachers, each session was framed around a monthly theme, such as Renewal, Change, and Fluidity. Hosted by Himalayan Programs and Communities Ambassador Tashi Chödrön, the sessions were open to beginners and skilled meditators alike and included an opening talk, 20-minute guided meditation session, and closing discussion.

Meditation teacher Lavina Shamdasani; photo by Filip Wolak

K–12 and adult experiences

At a glance

"It just helps put the world in perspective."

—Student Participant of Mandala Lab in Your Classroom

"I felt safe, held in a warm space of comfort, from which so much goodness blossomed in every possible sense."

—Global Hearth Summit Workshop Participant

1,350
students and families served

25
school partnerships

270
Mandala Lab Workshop participants

75
teachers in 3 Professional Development Workshops

5
family celebrations

47
weekly meditation sessions

Spiral

Spiral—our multimedia publication—provides a dynamic experience to enhance understanding of Himalayan art, its cultural context, and the insights illuminated by it. In 2025 we published weekly stories in a range of mediums including articles, videos, podcasts, essays, and more. Highlights included a series of articles and videos about Tibetan woodblock printing at a longstanding printing house, an educational article on the annual Tihar festival in Nepal, an interview with artist Osheen Siva, and a behind-the-scenes look at the installation of the Rubin Museum Tibetan Buddhist Shrine Room at the Brooklyn Museum.

White Tara and Consort; Derge Printing House, Derge; Kham region, eastern Tibet; 2000; xylograph, ink on paper; Rubin Museum of Himalayan Art; gift of Jane M. Farmer; SC2023.1.59

Interdependence Issue

In 2025 the ninth issue of *Spiral* explored the theme of interdependence, a fundamental concept in Buddhism and in life. Published as a free printed magazine with expanded content online, the issue featured interviews, essays, and short stories. It invited readers to explore the concept of interdependence as represented in Himalayan art through the perspectives of an environmentalist, social scientist, activist, neuroscientist, and more. The articles were complemented by illustrations, many newly commissioned, to further amplify and visualize the theme. The printed magazine was made available to visitors of traveling exhibitions, attendees of family and educational programs, and other community members.

After the publication of the ninth issue, new stories were released weekly online throughout the year.

Photo by KJ Bowen

Podcasts: AWAKEN and Mindfulness Meditation

Like *Spiral* magazine, season 5 of the Rubin's AWAKEN podcast explored the theme of interdependence. Hosted by singer, songwriter, and artist Devendra Banhart, the series focused on a painting of the Wheel of Life from the Rubin's collection to see what it can teach us about the interconnected nature of existence. Experts in the realms of art, social science, Buddhism, and more illuminated how greater awareness of interdependence can be the wake up call that motivates actions for a better world. Season 5 guests included Mia Birdsong, Nicholas Christakis, Lyla June Johnston, Osheen Siva, Pamela Ayo Yetunde, Stephanie Dinkins, Dr. Nida Chenagtsang, A.J. Jacobs, Annabella Pitkin, and Yongey Mingyur Rinpoche.

Throughout the year, our weekly meditation series, Mindfulness Meditation, invited listeners to quiet the mind, open the heart, and engage with the world more consciously. Each episode is inspired by an artwork from the Museum's collection, led by a prominent meditation teacher, and framed around a monthly theme. In November the podcast hit a milestone of 500 episodes and nearly 1.5 million listens worldwide.

2025 teachers included Tracy Cochran, Sharon Salzberg, Reverend Doyeon Park, Rebecca Li, Michel Pascal, Leslie Booker, Lavina Shamdasani, Lama Aria Drolma, Kimberly Brown, and Elaine Retholtz. Additionally, we were deeply honored to welcome Gegye Yongyal Tulku Rinpoche, Lopon Rigzen Lossal, Dr. Chok Tenzin Monlam, and Swami Chidananda as guest teachers.

Photo of Devendra Banhart by Shiho Fukada

Spiral

At a glance

"A great way to start or end your day—episodes have a calm and insightful tone and leave you thinking about how you can apply these concepts from Buddhist art to your everyday life!"

—AWAKEN Listener

"It's been an honor to be part of this inspiring journey that shares the wisdom of Himalayan traditions and brings mindfulness to people around the world. Here's to many more years of spreading compassion, loving kindness, calm and insight. Thank you for this wonderful platform."

—Mindfulness Meditation Teacher

140
online articles, podcasts, and videos published

130K
global readers of *Spiral*

6,500
copies of *Spiral* magazine around the world

400K+
podcast downloads

Thought leadership

The Rubin shares our unique expertise and research in museum innovation, Himalayan art, and more by presenting at various panels and conferences around the world.

Photo courtesy of Christie's New York

Panels & Conferences

Presented at “New Models of Ownership” convening hosted by Remuseum in Austin, TX, January 8–10, 2025 | Presenter: Jorrit Britschgi, Executive Director

Presented “Project Himalayan Art: Introducing the Rubin Museum’s Flagship Project as a ‘Museum without Walls’” at the European Society for the Study of Central Asian and Himalayan Civilizations Conference, March 11, 2025 | Presenters: Elena Pakhoutova, Senior Curator, Himalayan Art, and Karl Debreczeny, Senior Curator, Collections and Research

Hosted the Himalayan Art Curators’ Discussion and Luncheon at Luce Foundation in New York, NY, March 17, 2025 | Facilitators: Elena Pakhoutova, Senior Curator, Himalayan Art, Karl Debreczeny, Senior Curator, Collections and Research, and Jorrit Britschgi, Executive Director

Presented “Art Table with Dr. Jorrit Britschgi” at the University of Zurich in Zurich, Switzerland, April 4, 2025 | Presenter: Jorrit Britschgi, Executive Director

Presented “Chief Chat: The Future of Experience” at the Chief Experience Officer Exchange in Memphis, TN, May 2025 | Presenter: Jamie Lawyer, Deputy Executive Director

Presented “How Did We Get Here? Redefining Success and Growing the Cultural Community” at the American Alliance of Museums Conference in Los Angeles, CA, May 2025 | Presenter: Jamie Lawyer, Deputy Executive Director

Presented “The Rubin Museum of Himalayan Art: At the Crossroads of Change” at the American Alliance of Museums Conference in Los Angeles, CA, May 2025 | Presenter: Jacqueline D. Smith, Senior Manager, Curriculum Development and Education

Presented “Maintaining Ties Beyond Walls: Welcoming Communities Beyond the Premises through Online and Offsite Museum Opportunities” at New York City Museum Educators Roundtable Conference, May 2025 | Presenters: Jacqueline D. Smith, Senior Manager, Curriculum Development and Education, and John Sapida from the American Museum of Natural History

Participated in panel “More Art for More People in More Places” hosted by Remuseum, September 10, 2025 | Panelist: Jamie Lawyer, Deputy Executive Director

Presented at exhibition opening of *At the Crossroads of Traditional and Contemporary Himalayan Art with Tsherin Sherpa, Zimbiri, Jill Lu, Nobuo Takamori* at Tainan Art Museum in Tainan, Taiwan, September 12, 2025 | Presenter: Jorrit Britschgi, Executive Director

Presented “The Rubin Museum of Himalayan Art: Rethinking Museums in the 21st Century” at the Tibet Museum in Dharamsala, India, September 15, 2025 | Presenter: Jorrit Britschgi, Executive Director

Panels & Conferences Continued

Presented “Empathy, to What End?” at the Designing for Empathy Summit in New York, NY, October 2025 | Presenter: Jamie Lawyer, Deputy Executive Director

Participated in panel “Collections Beyond the Walls — A Panel Conversation on Museums Rethinking the Relationship between the Museum and the Collection” in Nashville, TN, September 2025 | Panelist: Jamie Lawyer, Deputy Executive Director

Participated in panel “Rehearsing Death: Demystifying and Preparing for Death and Dying in Art Institutions, Spiritual Communities, and Public Spaces” at the International Society of Contemplative Research, November 3–6, 2025 | Panelists: Tim McHenry, Curator, Mandala Lab, with Lama Justin von Bujdoss and Dr. Tawni Tidwell, moderated by Kate Mondloch

Presented “The Mandala Lab: How Can Art Transform You as a Person?” at the Museum of Art & Photography in Bangalore, India, November 19, 2025 | Presenter: Tim McHenry, Curator, Mandala Lab

Awards & Honors

Selected as 2025 Star Award Winner from the Fashion Institute of Technology | Recipient: Jamie Lawyer, Deputy Executive Director

Selected as 2025 Power Player in Arts & Culture by PoliticsNY and amNewYork | Recipient: Jorrit Britschgi, Executive Director

Mandala Lab Workshop in Bangalore;
photo courtesy of the Wellbeing Project

Engaging our donors

Throughout the year, we recognize the important support of our donors by inviting them to events celebrating Rubin exhibitions and programs.

Rubin Museum Tibetan Buddhist Shrine Room opening at the Brooklyn Museum; photo by Matthew Carasella

2025 Rubin Museum Himalayan Art Prize Celebration

On November 6 the Rubin hosted the second annual Himalayan Art Prize Celebration at Sundaram Tagore Gallery in Chelsea, honoring the 2025 Rubin Art Prize recipient, Khadhok — Tibetan Artists' Collective.

Over 150 guests joined the celebration, including sponsors, donors, friends, cultural leaders, local New York City Himalayan community members, artists, and art enthusiasts. The evening featured a special performance by the esteemed singer Tenzin Donsel and an award presentation hosted by Executive Director Jorrit Britschgi and artist Tenzing Rigdol. One of Khadhok's founding members, Lea Taake, accepted the award in the form of a statuette designed by Rubin trustee and visual artist Tsherin Sherpa.

Art Prize celebration;
photo by Matthew Carasella

Rubin Museum Tibetan Buddhist Shrine Room Opening at the Brooklyn Museum

On June 10 the Rubin celebrated the opening of our Tibetan Buddhist Shrine Room at the Brooklyn Museum, marking an exciting new chapter for this cherished Rubin installation as part of a six-year partnership. Bringing together longtime donors and new audiences alike, the evening celebrated the vibrant community who supports the Rubin's mission and the introduction of the Shrine Room to its new long-term home.

The program featured remarks from Executive Director Jorrit Britschgi and the Brooklyn Museum's Executive Director Anne Pasternak, as well as Senior Curator Elena Pakhoutova and the Brooklyn Museum's Senior Curator Joan Cummins. Guests enjoyed a delightful performance by Tibetan musical duet Tendor, followed by a lively reception and the opportunity to further explore the Shrine Room.

Photo by Matthew Carasella

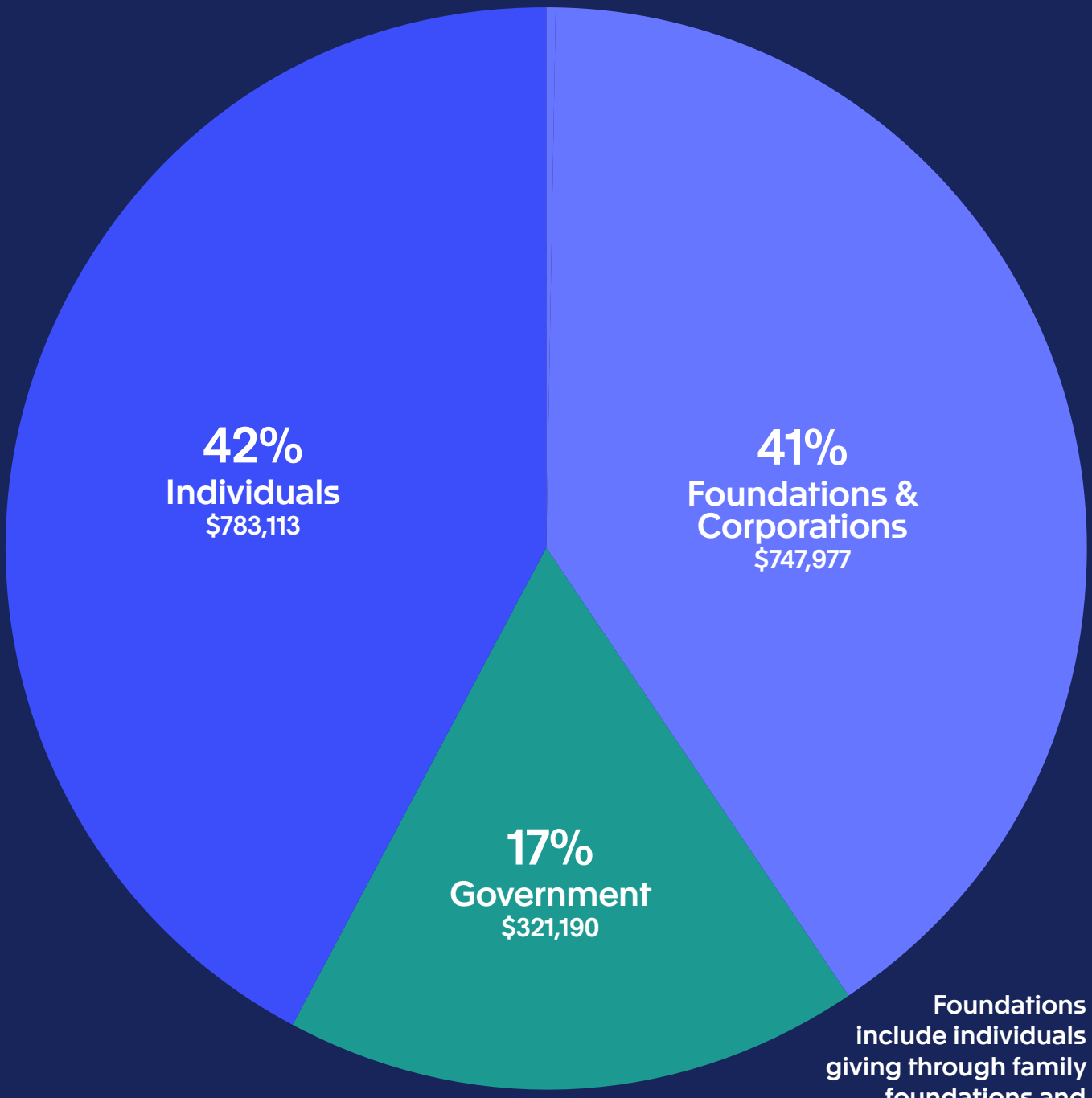
Detail of the Tibetan Buddhist Shrine Room;
photo by Dave De Armas

Donor acknowledgements

We are grateful to our generous and thoughtful supporters who provide critical funding to the Museum at all levels for our projects and exhibitions around the world. Thank you!

Detail of Stories of Previous Lives of the Buddha (Jataka); Tibet; 18th century; pigments on cloth; Rubin Museum of Himalayan Art; C2007.33.1

Our 2025 donors



Foundations include individuals giving through family foundations and donor advised funds.

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The Rubin Museum's programs are supported, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council.

The Rubin Museum's programs are made possible, in part, by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of Governor Kathy Hochul and the New York State Legislature.

The Rubin Museum's public artwork *About a Living Culture* by artist IMAGINE (a.k.a. Sneha Shrestha) was commissioned in partnership with New York City Department of Transportation (NYC DOT) Art Community Commissions. Community Commissions is a signature NYC DOT Art initiative in which the agency collaborates with community-based organizations to commission artists to design and install temporary public art on NYC DOT infrastructure city wide.

Project Himalayan Art has been made possible, in part, by a major grant from The National Endowment for the Humanities: Democracy demands wisdom. (2023-2025)

Project Himalayan Art was made possible, in part, by the Institute of Museum and Library Services MA-253379-OMS-23.

Most generous supporters

Enormous thanks to the generous individuals, foundations, corporations, and government agencies that have given gifts of $100,000 or more during the life of the Rubin Museum.

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Support our work

The Rubin Museum of Himalayan Art is making more of an impact than ever before, as we bring our work to communities in New York City, across the United States, and around the world. We rely on our generous and thoughtful supporters and need your help to promote understanding and appreciation of Himalayan art and cultures through inspiring and meaningful experiences for people of all ages and backgrounds. Visit rubinmuseum.org/support to learn more.

Photo by Filip Wolak

Become a Friend

Friends of the Rubin fuel the Rubin Museum of Himalayan Art's mission to celebrate and present the rich art and cultures of the greater Himalayan region to audiences of all ages locally, nationally, and internationally. This critical funding is essential to our work. Join us today! Become a Friend by making a one-time donation or provide continuous support through a recurring monthly donation at the level that works best for you.

Give a major gift

By making an annual gift or multiyear pledge of $5,000 or greater, you will directly impact our many programs and multiyear initiatives that serve the public of all ages. Major donors are listed on our website, donor walls at venues of our traveling exhibitions, Impact Report (digital), annual *Spiral* magazine (print and digital), and other print and digital publications. We would be profoundly grateful if you joined our growing list of donors promoting the understanding and appreciation of Himalayan art worldwide.

Photo by Tashi Chödrön

Support with foundation and corporate giving

We invite connections to your philanthropic organizations. Foundation and corporate giving are essential for major initiatives, traveling exhibitions, digital and in-person programs, and K–12 school learning and teacher resources. We are also interested in pursuing collaborative partnerships with other arts organizations in New York City, the United States, and abroad.

Photo by Elena Pakhoutova

Photo by Filip Wolak

Photo by Filip Wolak

Financial information

Detail of Bodhisattva Avalokiteshvara (After Situ Panchen's [1700–1774] Set of Eight Great Bodhisattvas); Kham region; eastern Tibet; 19th century; pigments on cloth; Rubin Museum of Himalayan Art; C2008.9

Photo by Filip Wolak

Statement of financial position

at December 31, 2025

Assets

Current Assets

Cash and cash equivalents	$1,043,015
Unconditional promises to give	104,852
Restricted for future periods and programs	327,333
Accounts receivable	252,882
Museum publication and inventory	421,320
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	362,231
Investments in marketable securities	192,560,505
Total Current Assets	$195,072,138
Property and Equipment	$25,143,771
Contributions Receivable	$134,772
Accrued Rental Income	$ 236,394
Operating Leasing Right-of-Use-Asset	$1,801,985
Total Assets	**$222,389,060**

Liabilities and net assets

Current liabilities

Accounts payable and accrued expenses	$1,094,979
Tenant security deposits	259,648
Deferred facility rental income	5,000
Operating lease liability	1,922,003
Total Current Liabilities	$3,281,630
Net Assets	
Unrestricted	
Board-designated funds	$151,787,625
Other unrestricted	25,606,695
Temporarily restricted	16,713,108
Permanent restricted	25,000,002
Total Net Assets	$219,107,430
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	**$222,389,060**

Statement of activities

for the year ending December 31, 2025

Revenues and other support

Public Support

Contributions and donations	$789,335
Grants and sponsorships	1,064,167
Total Public Support	$1,853,502

Revenues from Programs and Activities

Program fees	$8,351
Facility rental income	151,810
Catalog sales	805
Other revenue	64,794
Total Revenue from Programs and Activities	$225,760

Rental Income	$1,734,759
Net Investment Income	$29,123,614
Total Revenues, Gains, and Other Support	**$32,937,635**

Expenses

Program Services

Collections and exhibitions	$3,566,209
Publications	323,744
Programs and engagement	1,701,812
Public relations and marketing	1,315,206
Total Program Services	$6,906,971

Supporting Services

Management and general	$3,737,194
Development	768,006
Total Supporting Services	$4,505,200

Rental Real Estate Activities	$1,012,652
Collections Items Purchased and Related Costs	$12,500
Total Expenses	**$12,437,323**

Change in Net Assets	**$20,500,312**

People

Photo by Filip Wolak

As of December 31, 2025

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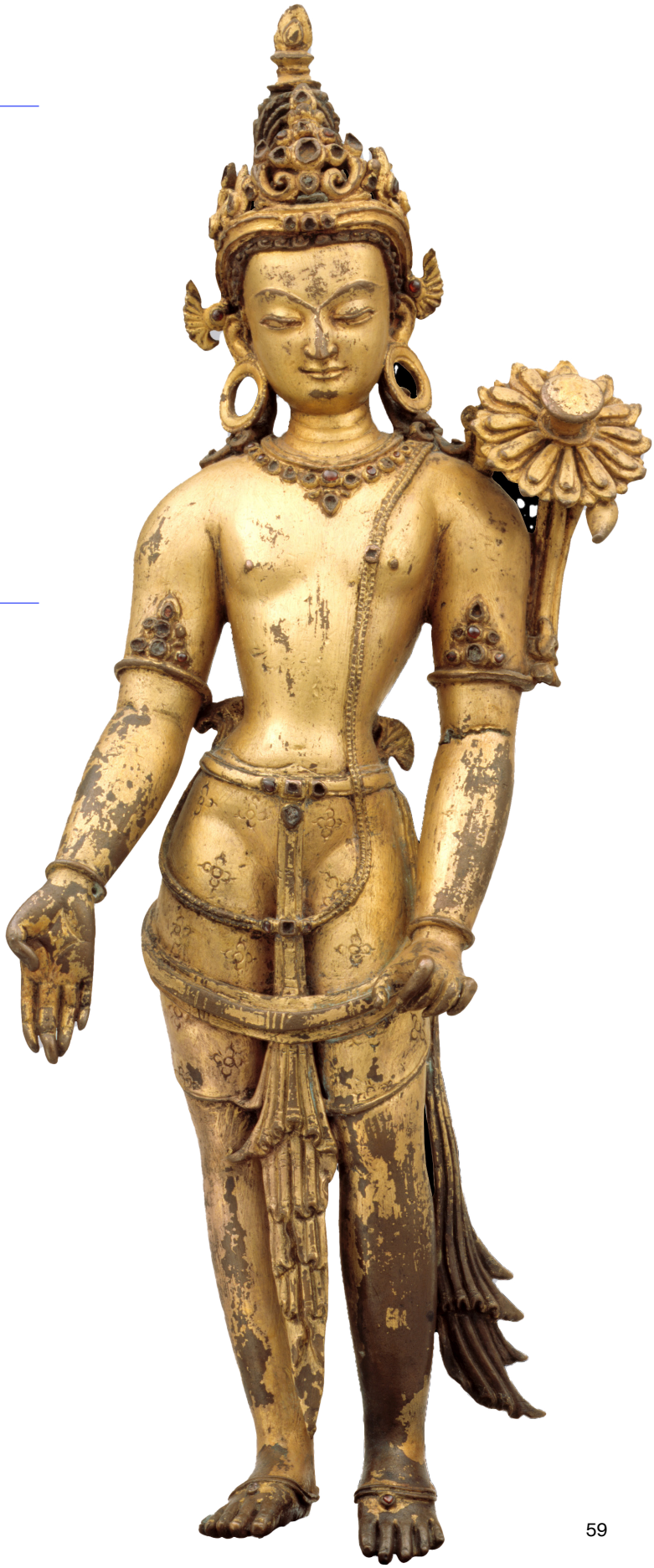

Bodhisattva Avalokiteshvara; Nepal; 13th–14th century; gilt copper alloy with semiprecious stone inlay; Rubin Museum of Himalayan Art; C2005.16.8 (HAR65430)

Executive Leadership

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Jamie Lawyer, Deputy Executive Director

Billy Umana, Executive Assistant, Director's Office

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Jon Lutz, Senior Registrar & Collections Manager
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Joni Todd, Head of Finance

Photo by Matthew Carasella

Detail of Arhat Subhuti (After Choying Gyatso's [active ca. 1640s-1660s] Set of Previous Incarnations of the Panchen Lamas); central Tibet; 19th century; pigments on cloth, silk brocade; Rubin Museum of Himalayan Art; gift of Shelley and Donald Rubin; C2006.66.503

RUBIN

Museum of
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